

a second console housing disposed on the structural member of the headliner, wherein the second console housing is spaced apart from the first console housing;

a center console housing disposed between the first and second console housings, the center console housing including at least one securement surface, each of the at least one securement surface forming only an outer surface of the center console housing; and

at least one accessory module selectively positionable on and removably secured to the at least one securement surface of the center console housing for storing materials, the at least one accessory module including a housing, a storage area defined within the housing to retain materials within and at least one securing member engaging the at least one securement surface of the center console housing.

2. (Amended) The combination of claim 1, wherein the center console housing comprises a pair of spaced apart rails extending between and secured to the first and second console housings, wherein each rail includes a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery of the rail and an inner surface forming a cavity.

3. (Amended) The combination of claim 2, wherein the rails are formed of extruded aluminum.

4. (Amended) The combination of claim 2, wherein each of the rails is generally cylindrical in shape.

5. (Amended) The combination of claim 2, wherein the housing of the at least one accessory module includes a lower surface having opposite ends, and the at least one securing member of the at least one accessory module comprises a gripping portion extending from each end of the lower surface, each gripping portion engaging the securement surface of a respective rail.

6. (Amended) The combination of claim 2, wherein each rail is generally cylindrical in shape, and each gripping portion is arcuately shaped.

7. (Amended) The combination of claim 1, wherein the structural member of the headliner has a lower surface, and wherein the center console housing comprises an upper surface substantially flush to the lower surface of the structural member of the headliner, a pair of sidewalls extending vertically from the upper surface between the first and second console housings, and a cavity defined therebetween.

8. (Amended) The combination of claim 7, wherein the upper surface and the pair of sidewalls extending vertically from the upper surface of the center console housing are integrally formed with the structural member of the headliner.

9. (Amended) The combination of claim 8, wherein the first console housing and center console housing are integrally formed as part of the structural member of the headliner.

12. (Amended) An overhead console assembly for use with a vehicle having a headliner, the headliner including a structural member having a lower surface, the overhead console assembly comprising:

a first console housing disposable on the lower surface of the structural member;

a second console housing disposable on the lower surface of the structural member in spaced relationship with the first console housing;

a center console housing disposed between the first and second console housings, wherein the center console housing includes at least one generally cylindrical rail extending between and secured to the first and second console housings, the at least one rail having an outer surface; and

at least one accessory module selectively positionable along and removably secured to the at least one rail of the center console housing for storing materials, the at least one accessory module including a housing, a storage area defined within the housing to retain the materials and at least one securing member engaging the at least one rail only at the outer surface of the at least one rail.

A4 13. (Amended) The overhead console assembly of claim 12, wherein the at least one rail of the center console housing comprises a pair of generally cylindrical, spaced apart rails extending between and secured to the first and second console housings, wherein each rail includes a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery of the rail and an inner surface forming a cavity.

14. (Amended) The overhead console assembly of claim 13, wherein the rails are formed of extruded aluminum.

A5 15 16. (Amended) The overhead console assembly of claim 13, wherein the housing of the at least one accessory module includes a lower surface having opposite ends, and the at least one securing member of the least one accessory module comprises a gripping portion extending from each end of the lower surface, each gripping portion engaging the securement surface of a respective rail.

16 17. (Amended) The overhead console assembly of claim 16, wherein each gripping portion is arcuately shaped.

A6 23 24. (New) The combination of claim 1 wherein the center console housing comprises at least one rail having a longitudinally extending securement surface disposed at an outer periphery of the at least one rail such that the securement surface forms only an outer surface of the at least one rail, and the at least one securing member of the at least one accessory module removably engages the at least one rail only at the securement surface.

24 25. (New) The combination of claim 1 wherein the at least one rail comprises polymeric material.

25 26. (New) The combination of claim 1 wherein the center console housing comprises a pair of spaced apart rails, each rail having a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery of the rail such that the securement surface forms only an outer surface of the rail, the at least one securing member of the at least one accessory module includes two

securing members that engage the rails only at the securement surfaces so as to removably secure the at least one accessory module to the rails, and the housing of the at least one accessory module includes two vertically extending side walls disposed between the rails when the at least one accessory module is secured to the rails, the side walls defining the storage area of the at least one accessory module.

26 ~~27~~. (New) The combination of claim 1 wherein the center console housing comprises a pair of spaced apart rails, each rail having a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery of the rail such that the securement surface forms only an outer surface of the rail, the at least one securing member of the at least one accessory module includes two securing members that engage the rails only at the securement surfaces so as to removably secure the at least one accessory module to the rails, and the storage area of the at least one accessory module is disposed entirely between the two rails when the at least one accessory module is secured to the rails.

27 ~~28~~. (New) The overhead console assembly of claim 12 wherein the at least one rail comprises polymeric material.

28 ~~29~~. (New) The overhead console assembly of claim 12 wherein the at least one rail comprises two spaced apart rails, and the housing of the at least one accessory module includes two vertically extending side walls disposed between the rails when the at least one accessory module is secured to the rails, the side walls defining the storage area of the at least one accessory module.

29 ~~30~~. (New) The overhead console assembly of claim 12 wherein the at least one rail comprises two rails, and the storage area of the at least one accessory module is disposed entirely between the two rails when the at least one accessory module is secured to the rails.

30 ~~31~~. (New) An overhead console assembly and headliner combination for use with a vehicle, the combination comprising:

a headliner;

a first console housing disposed on the headliner;

a second console housing disposed on the headliner, wherein the second console housing is spaced apart from the first console housing;

a center console housing disposed between the first and second console housings, the center console housing including a pair of spaced apart rails extending between and secured to the first and second console housings, wherein each of the rails includes a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery and an inner surface forming a cavity; and

at least one accessory module selectively positionable on and removably secured to the securement surfaces of the center console housing for storing materials, the at least one accessory module including a housing, a storage area defined within the housing to retain materials, and at least one securing member engaging the securement surfaces of the center console housing.

31 ~~32~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁰~~31~~ wherein the rails are formed of extruded aluminum.

32 ~~33~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁰~~31~~ wherein each of the rails is generally cylindrical in shape.

33 ~~34~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁰~~31~~ wherein the housing of the at least one accessory module includes a lower surface having first and second ends, and the at least one securing member of the least one accessory module includes first and second gripping portions, the first gripping portion extending from the first end, and the second gripping portion extending from the second end, each gripping portion engaging the securement surface of a respective rail.

34 ~~35~~. (New) The combination of claim ³³~~34~~ wherein each rail is generally cylindrical in shape, and each gripping portion is arcuately shaped.

³⁵~~36~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁹~~31~~ wherein the rails comprise polymeric material.

³⁶~~37~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁰~~31~~ wherein the housing of the at least one accessory module includes two vertically extending side walls disposed between the rails, the side walls defining the storage area of the at least one accessory module.

³⁷~~38~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁰~~31~~ wherein the storage area of the at least one accessory module is disposed entirely between the two rails when the at least one accessory module is secured to the rails.

³⁸~~39~~. (New) An overhead console assembly and headliner combination for use with a vehicle, the overhead console assembly comprising:

a headliner;

a first console housing disposed on the headliner;

a second console housing disposed on the headliner and spaced apart from the first console housing;

a center console housing disposed between the first and second console housings, the center console housing including two spaced apart rails extending between the first and second console housings; and

an accessory module selectively positionable on and removably securable to the rails, the module including a housing having vertically extending side walls that extend between the rails when the module is secured to the rails, the side walls defining a storage receptacle.

³⁹~~40~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁸~~39~~ wherein the storage receptacle is disposed entirely between the rails when the module is secured to the rails.

⁴⁰~~41~~. (New) The combination of claim ³⁸~~39~~ wherein each rail has a generally cylindrical shape, and wherein the housing of the module includes a lower surface having first and second ends, the module further comprising first and second arcuately shaped gripping

portions respectively extending from the first and second ends, each gripping portion being engageable with a respective rail.

41 ~~42~~. (New) The combination of claim ~~39~~³⁸ wherein the rails are formed of polymeric material.

Ab 42 ~~43~~. (New) The combination of claim ~~39~~³⁸ wherein each rail includes a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery of the rail, and an inner cavity, and wherein the module includes two securing members, each securing member being engageable with a respective securement surface.

43 ~~44~~. (New) The combination of claim ~~43~~⁴² wherein when the securing members are engaged with the securement surfaces, the securing members do not extend into the cavities.

Remarks

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. Claims 10, 11, and 18-23 were withdrawn from consideration as claiming non-elected subject matter. Furthermore, claims 2-6 and 13-17 were objected to, and claims 1, 7-9 and 12 were rejected.

Claims 1-9, 12-14, 16 and 17 have been amended, claim 15 has been canceled, and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Furthermore, new claims 24-44 have been added.

A. Objections To Specification And Claims

Regarding the objections to the specification and claim 5, Applicants have amended the specification and claims 5 as directed by the Examiner. These objections are believed to be obviated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.